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ABSTRACT

This report lists percentage distribution and annual median salaries (in constant 1998 dollars) of full-time elementary and secondary school teachers, by age for 1971-98. As a wave of younger teachers hired in the mid-1970s has aged, a demographic shift in the age of teachers has occurred. The percentage of full-time teachers 45 years or older has increased from about 26 percent in 1975 to 43 percent in 1993. The annual median salaries of full-time teachers decreased between 1971 and 1981 by about $500-$700 annually in each age group. Between 1981 and 1989, the salaries of teachers rose. For the oldest group of teachers, salaries rose by about $1,100 per year, on average, while for the middle and youngest age groups, salaries increased by smaller amounts. Since 1989, the salaries of the oldest and youngest groups of teachers have remained about the same, while the salaries of the middle-age group (between ages 35 and 44) have declined by about $400 per year, on average. Finally, the difference between the annual median salaries of bachelor's degree recipients and all teachers declined from about $5,000 in 1981 to $2,300 in 1998. (DFR)

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National Center for Education Statistics
August 2000

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EA 030 532

INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Salaries of teachers

August 2000

Attracting and retaining quality teachers are growing concerns among education officials and the public. This is especially true for beginning teachers as school districts compete with each other and other industries for additional teaching personnel to cope with growing enrollments and an aging work force of experienced teachers who are nearing retirement. Increased salaries potentially provide a means of attracting and retaining the increased numbers of quality young teachers who will be needed in the years ahead.

- As a wave of younger teachers hired in the mid-1970s has aged, a demographic shift in the age of teachers has occurred. For example, in 1975, 53 percent of all full-time teachers were younger than age 35; in 1993, the percentage of younger teachers fell to about 23 percent. Meanwhile, the percentage of full-time teachers 45 years old or older increased from about 26 percent in 1975 to 43 percent in 1993.
- The annual median salaries (in constant 1998 dollars) of full-time teachers decreased between 1971 and 1981 by about $500–700 annually in each age group.
- Between 1981 and 1989, the salaries of teachers rose. For the oldest group of teachers, salaries rose by about $1,100 per year, on average, while for the middle and youngest age groups, salaries increased by smaller amounts.
- Since 1989, the salaries of the oldest and youngest groups of teachers have remained about the same, while the salaries of the middle age group (between ages 35 and 44) have declined by about $400 per year, on average (in constant 1998 dollars).
- The difference between the annual median salaries of bachelor's degree recipients and all teachers declined from about $5,000 in 1981 to $2,300 in 1998. This decline in the salary gap has been due mainly to increases in the relative size of the older teaching work force and in the salaries of teachers ages 45 or older.

Percentage distribution and annual median salaries (in constant 1998 dollars) of full-time elementary and secondary school teachers, by age: 1971–98

	All elementary and secondary school teachers			Annual median salaries in constant 1998 dollars				
	Age				Age			Bachelor's degree
Year	Less than 35	35–44	45 or older	Total	Less than 35	35–44	45 or older	recipients*
1971	46.4	18.1	35.5	$34,113	$31,042	$37,522	$37,369	$39,736
1973	47.7	20.6	31.7	34,138	31,102	38,690	37,758	39,740
1975	53.1	21.2	25.7	31,581	28,361	37,070	35,106	35,541
1977	49.9	24.4	25.8	32,003	28,781	36,113	37,135	37,030
1979	48.0	25.2	26.8	30,061	26,899	32,508	35,204	35,283
1981	39.7	30.4	30.0	28,576	24,681	31,169	31,099	33,584
1983	36.8	32.0	31.2	31,122	25,589	33,716	35,867	34,464
1985	29.7	37.3	33.0	33,188	26,453	34,660	38,026	35,954
1987	28.1	40.8	31.2	34,893	29,327	37,039	38,842	37,714
1989	25.8	39.5	34.6	34,668	27,543	35,860	40,341	36,923
1991	25.1	38.2	36.6	34,322	28,477	34,562	39,738	36,924
1993	22.7	34.3	43.0	34,947	29,249	33,716	41,103	36,585
1995	24.2	30.7	45.1	35,134	28,709	33,978	39,759	37,817
1997	27.3	25.8	46.9	32,295	27,121	31,273	38,406	36,740
1998	26.7	25.5	47.8	35,099	29,119	33,105	41,661	37,399

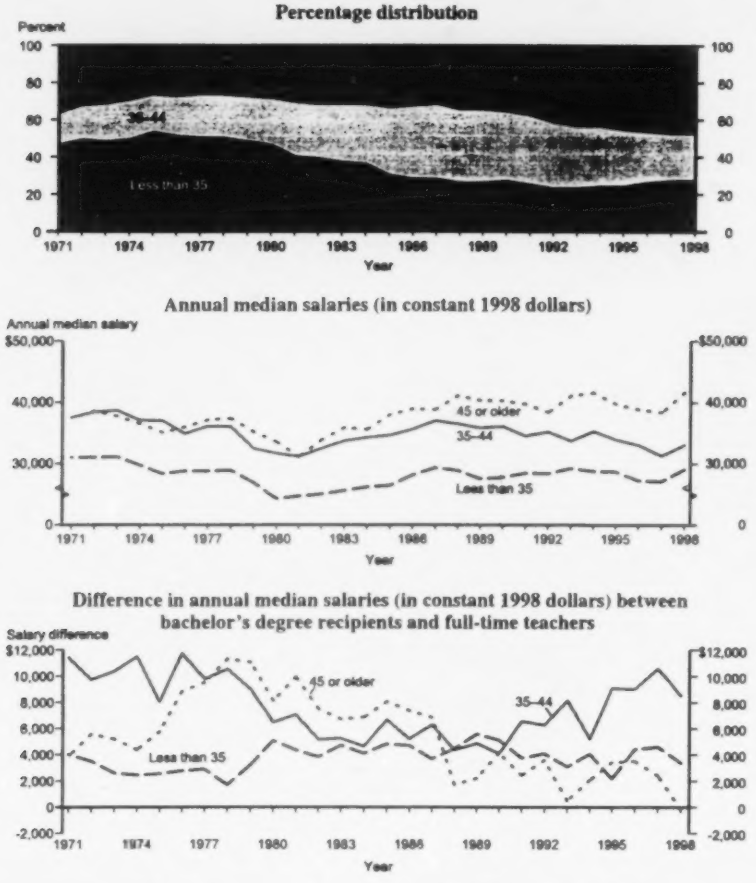
* Includes full-time employed bachelor's degree recipients only.

NOTE: Median salaries refer to the previous calendar year; for example, salaries reported in 1971 refer to salaries earned in 1970. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was used to calculate constant dollars. Includes full-time public and private school teachers who taught grades 1–12. Details may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

EA 030532

Percentage distribution and annual median salaries of full-time elementary and secondary teachers, by age: 1971–98



NOTE: Median salaries refer to the previous calendar year; for example, salaries reported in 1971 refer to salaries earned in 1970. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was used to calculate constant dollars. Includes full-time public and private school teachers who taught grades 1–12.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

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